



**A Message
From
The
Secretary**

A recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health shows nearly 60 percent of Americans are concerned about bird flu, and a large number of those surveyed say they would take specific actions during an outbreak, which could result in a severe impact on our economy. That includes avoiding travel, skipping public events, staying home and keeping their children home while the outbreak lasted. Several even said they would stop eating chicken if bird flu hits the U.S. poultry industry.

As more developments are seen each day with bird flu, it's an important reminder for everyone to take steps to protect themselves during such an outbreak. KDHE just recently updated our Web site to help you prepare individually for a pandemic, to give you an idea on what impacts a pandemic could have on all of society, and to provide you with the state plan of action during a pandemic. Go to www.kdheks.gov for more information.

KDHE and the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project (KMPP) have a new tactic to fight methamphetamine (meth) production in Kansas---decals for anhydrous ammonia nurse tanks. The Meth Watch decals are designed to allow Kansas farmers and ranchers to demonstrate support and participate in meth prevention efforts. For up-to-date information on methamphetamine education and outreach, please note that we have launched a Web site to answer these questions and many others at www.KansasMethWatch.com. More meth labs mean more Kansans are likely becoming addicted and these labs result in more toxic sites to clean up. We are partnering with retailers, farmers, law enforcement and lawmakers, to make it tougher for meth makers to do business in our state.

This year we are once again encouraging businesses, community organizations and individuals to apply for the 2006 Pollution Prevention Awards and Recognition Program. The application deadline is June 16. Pollution Prevention (P2) includes many activities that reduce or prevent the generation of pollutants and waste and make our state more beautiful. If you know someone or organization that has done something unique and innovative, please encourage them to apply. Details are available at www.kdheks.gov

If you haven't registered for the annual health disparities conference in April, "Healthy Practices, Healthy Kansas," there is still time. It will be at the Maner Conference Center / Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. Registration information is available online at www.minorityhealthks.org.

Be well,